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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Rice Warns Barzani to Protect Iraq's Unity - Milliyet  
Erdogan: Turkey Worried About Anti-Islamist Sentiment -  
Milliyet  
Erdogan Calls for Cooperation Against Terror - Turkiye  
2 PKK Suicide Bombers Killed in Siirt - Hurriyet  
Uzbek Troops Kill 200 in Pahtaabad - Milliyet  
5,000 Uzbeks Flee Country for Kyrgyzstan - Sabah  
Iranian Dissidents Call for Boycott of June Presidential  
Polls - Aksam  
Bill Gates to Donate \$450 Million to Medical Researches -  
Hurriyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

Iraqi Defense Ministry Bans Operations Against Places of  
Prayer - Yeni Safak  
Baghdad Bans Raids Against Universities, Shrines - Zaman  
White House Wants Newsweek to Retract Koran Abuse Report -  
Zaman  
Newsweek Steps Back on Koran Report - Cumhuriyet  
Uzbeks on the Run - Radikal  
Washington Post: Websites Recruiting Fighters for Iraq -  
Cumhuriyet  
Tehran-Baku Friendship Pact - Radikal  
Serbian Orthodox Monastery Reopens in Mostar - Radikal

#### BRIEFING

US Congressional Delegation to `TRNC': "Hurriyet" columnist  
Fatih Altayli writes that a US Congressional delegation led  
by a `friend of Turkey,' Ed Whitfield, is to visit Turkey in  
coming days for meetings with politicians and businessmen.  
Altayli expects the US delegation to move on to north Cyprus  
directly from Turkey. Altayli notes that this would be the  
first visit of its kind, and claims that the decision to fly  
directly from Turkey to north Cyprus has `driven the Greek  
Cypriots crazy.' He notes that Nicosia's efforts to block  
the visit have not achieved a positive result. Altayli  
emphasizes that Washington, despite its problems with  
Turkey, seems determined to take the Greek Cypriots back to  
the negotiating table within the framework of the Annan  
Plan, and believes the upcoming US visit to north Cyprus  
will be a way for the Americans to show the Greek Cypriots  
`the iron hand beneath the velvet glove.'

Erdogan-Kocharian at Odds at COE Summit: Turkish papers  
slam Armenian President Robert Kocharian for making  
reference to `genocide' claims in his address to the Council  
of Europe (COE) summit meeting in Warsaw. Papers claim that  
Kocharian's statements damaged efforts for dialogue between  
Ankara and Yerevan. Kocharian also suggested the annexation  
of Nagorno-Karabakh to Europe, a proposal regarded by Turks  
as another blow against efforts to keep open a channel of  
communication. Ties between Armenia and Turkey have now  
become more tense, according to the reports. Addressing a  
press conference at the COE summit yesterday, Prime Minister  
Erdogan said that Armenia is responsible for the lack of  
progress in establishing diplomatic relations between the  
two neighbors. Erdogan blamed Kocharian for pursuing  
populist policies, and urged Armenia to pull out of Nagorno-  
Karabakh `before accusing others.' Erdogan also criticized  
countries that adopted Armenian genocide resolutions.  
Erdogan noted that Turkey has opened its archives, and he  
called on Armenia and third countries to do the same.

Secretary Rice's Messages in Iraq: "Milliyet" claims that

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Secretary Rice delivered three important messages during her

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surprise visit to Iraq last weekend. The paper reports that the Secretary called on Iraqi officials to increase the participation of Sunni elements, including former Baathists, in the Iraqi political process. She also encouraged Kurdish leaders to keep their parties engaged in constructive efforts to build the new Iraq. Finally, Secretary Rice delivered a harsh assessment of Syria's failure to prevent the infiltration of foreign fighters into Iraq, and said that the Syrians had also failed to withdraw all intelligence forces from Lebanon as required under UNSC resolutions.

AKP Government Intervenes in Turkey's Defense in ECHR 'Headscarf' Case: Turkey's ruling AK Party will argue on Wednesday at a hearing of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) that the ban on Islamic headgear in Turkey does not constitute a violation of human rights, "Radikal" reports. A Turkish university student, Leyla Sahin, had appealed an ECHR ruling last year in which the court had decided that the ban on wearing headscarves in Turkish universities was not a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. A Turkish government statement drafted under the guidance of Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul will inform the ECHR that the ban on headscarves in Turkish universities has not been an infringement of religious freedom, "Radikal" claims. Meanwhile, "Cumhuriyet" reports that Gul has omitted from the defense statement the argument used by Turkey at previous hearings that the headscarf has been used as a 'political symbol' in Turkey and an 'element of oppression' against Turkish women. Fearing that the ECHR final judgment tomorrow may confirm the previous ruling, the AK Party government has deliberately weakened Turkey's defense in the case, "Cumhuriyet" argues.

AKP Wants Ocalan Case Discussed at NSC: The AK Party government, reluctant to take political responsibility for implementing the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decision stipulating a retrial for imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, says the case is a matter that concerns the state, not the government, "Cumhuriyet" reports. The AKP is hesitant to change legislation that would allow for a retrial of Ocalan, even though President Sezer has warned the government to do so. "Cumhuriyet" claims that the AKP government, in an effort to evade political responsibility and ease public pressure, will take the issue to the National Security Council (NSC) meeting in June.

Greenpeace Opens 'Peace Office' in Incirlik: Greenpeace has set up a 'Mission Office for Peace' in the town of Incirlik in Turkey's southern province Adana, declaring that its objective is to inform people about the nuclear bombs allegedly stored at the airbase, Turkish media report. A Greenpeace member, Aslihan Tumer, recalled claims that 90 nuclear bombs are stored in Incirlik within the NATO framework. He called for the immediate transfer of the weapons to the United States. 'Nuclear arms stored at US bases in Europe will be reviewed in a proposal that has been submitted to the US Senate. It is possible that other nuclear bombs stored in Europe will be transferred to Turkey,' Tumer said, adding that the proposal will be submitted for the approval of President Bush on September 23. Greenpeace Chairman Gerd Leipold added that the Turkish people had the right to be informed about nuclear weapons in their country. The Greenpeace office at Incirlik will remain open for three weeks.

US Court Confirms Verdict on Uzans: A US Appeals Court has confirmed a New York South District Court ruling in which Judge Jed Rakoff had ordered Turkey's Uzan family to pay a 2.13 billion USD settlement in the Motorola case, "Milliyet" reports. The Court's judgment ends the appeals process for the Uzans. Motorola's deputy executive chairman Peter Lawson voiced his satisfaction with the verdict. 2 PKK Suicide Bombers Killed in Siirt: Two suicide bombers from the PKK were killed in Turkey's southeastern province of Siirt on Monday as they were preparing to attack the governor's residence, papers report. One bomber killed himself after detonating his explosives, while the other escaped but was later killed by security forces.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Uzbekistan; Armenia-Turkey

"Uzbekistan is the Toughest Nut"

Nuh Gonultas commented in the conservative-sensational "Dunden Bugune Tercuman" (5/17): "Uzbekistan has a cruel leader who seems unwilling to transfer his authority through peaceful means. Kerimov's brutal methods to break the riot in Andijan, which has claimed between 50 and 500 lives, show his true character. Washington will find it very difficult to lay the groundwork for a 'civilian coup' in Uzbekistan. Kerimov has already closed down the office of George Soros and deported some American citizens. The recent incidents

also prove that Kerimov is determined to retaliate brutally in the face of any attempt to bring about a 'civilian coup.' . Kerimov's political record in Uzbekistan is anything but clean. He even extended his term in January 2002 by arranging a fake referendum. Kerimov has used every method available to him to remain in power, including becoming a close partner of the United States in the fight against terrorism. Given the current circumstances, Uzbekistan seems to be the toughest nut to crack for those who want to provoke a 'civilian coup.' Nevertheless, history tells us that there is an end even for the most brutal of dictators."

#### "Kerimov Has Solid Support"

Haluk Ulman wrote in the economic-political "Dunya" (5/17): "Secretary Rumsfeld praised Uzbekistan's role highly when the US launched its global campaign against terrorism with the operation in Afghanistan. The former Soviet Republics, particularly Uzbekistan and Krygyzstan, are very important for Washington, because they constitute a basis for American policy in Asia. . Krygyzstan has given over its Manas base for the use of the US, and President Akayev maintained excellent ties with Washington. Washington, for the sake of the military base, turned a blind eye to the blatant human rights violations in Krygyzstan. A similar thing can be seen in Washington's apparent disinterest in the Andijan riots and Kerimov's mistakes. . The military bases in Uzbekistan continue to make a great deal of impact on Kerimov's ability to continue his rule. The Europeans complain about the country's poor human rights record and take some measures, but the US administration keeps silent. The State Department characterizes Uzbekistan government as 'stable and moderate.' This is due to the fact that the US military needs the bases in Uzbekistan."

#### "Kocaryan Openly Expresses Yerevan's Hopes"

Semih Idiz commented in the mainstream opposition "Milliyet" (5/17): "International media attention had been focused on a possible meeting between Turkish PM Erdogan and Armenian President Kocaryan at the European Council meeting in Warsaw yesterday. Despite the expectations, the meeting never materialized. While diplomats at the summit are not talking, those covering the event for the media believe that the meeting failed to take place because no resolution was reached on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue during the Aliyev-Kocaryan meeting on Sunday. According to Azerbaijani sources, the atmosphere of the meeting was very positive. Some positive developments had already been achieved at the periodic meetings between the Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers, and Armenia had agreed to withdraw from the seven areas it had occupied in Azerbaijan. Before taking any further steps on the Armenia issue, however, the Turkish wanted to listen to Kocaryan's speech at the summit. As if trying to confirm Turkey's negative expectations, Kocaryan made sure to mention the Armenian 'genocide' issue in his speech. Kocaryan added that Europe should have open borders without any embargoes. It wasn't lost on anyone at the summit missed that these remarks were directed toward Turkey. Despite all of these negative developments, Turkish and Armenian diplomats did not close all doors to positive developments. Diplomats from both countries emphasize the continuity of the negotiations on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. The Turkish side has made known that Turkey's stance will be 'dynamic and constructive' at the negotiations, even though the Turks are not prepared to make 'one-sided' gestures. The Turkish side expects different approaches from Armenia on certain issues. Unfortunately, there were no signs in Warsaw that these expectations will be met. It is not yet clear yet whether a meeting between Erdogan and Kocaryan will eventually come to pass. Given that certain powers want this to happen, it probably will at some point. But the success of future talks between the Azeri and Armenian leaders will likely play a determining role in Erdogan's willingness to meet with Kocaryan."

EDELMAN